

ABSTRACT

Described are novel antibodies specifically recognizing conformation dependent epitopes of HCV glycoprotein E2 and that are capable of neutralizing the binding of E2 protein onto susceptible cells. Furthermore, antigens and epitopes recognized by the above-described antibodies as well as polynucleotides encoding said antibodies are provided. Also provided are to vectors comprising said polynucleotides as well as host cells transformed therewith and their use in the production of said antibodies. In addition, pharmaceutical and diagnostic compositions are provided comprising any of the aforescribed antibodies, antigens, epitopes, polynucleotides, vectors or cells. Further described is the use of the aforementioned antibodies, antigens, polynucleotides and vectors in adoptive immunotherapy, preferably for the treatment or prevention of HCV infection during liver transplantation.

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